2008-03341/

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

ACHIEVEBC

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007AE0064-001263
Oct. 9, 2007

Ministry of Advanced Education

UBC OKANAGAN OFFERING TWO NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

KELOWNA – University of British Columbia Okanagan is offering Western Canada's first interdisciplinary bachelor of arts degree in cultural studies and new master's and doctoral degrees in environmental sciences, Kelowna-Lake Country MLA Al Horning announced today.

"These new degrees add to the growing choices UBC Okanagan is providing to students in this region and across the province," said Horning. "The cultural studies program is designed to prepare students to become outstanding citizens of B.C. and the world. The environmental sciences programs will help UBC Okanagan promote its value of sustainability."

Since 2003, the Ministry of Advanced Education has approved 150 new undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The new degrees are helping B.C. improve its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training.

"New degrees like the ones being offered by UBC Okanagan give B.C. students improved access to educational programs that address current issues," said Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell. "As an added benefit, the creation of these two new graduate programs also enhances the university's research capacity and its ability to attract research funding."

UBC Okanagan's new cultural studies program will teach students investigative, analytical and critical thinking and creative problem solving skills. Students will take core courses from the faculty of creative and critical studies and then choose courses from a range of disciplines designed to give them in-depth knowledge in one of three areas: critical and cultural theory, global cultural studies, and media studies.

"Our new cultural studies program is the first of its kind in Western Canada," said UBC Okanagan deputy vice-chancellor Doug Owram. "By exposing students to research-based, experiential learning and community-based problems, the program teaches students to think differently about social, economic and other forces from local and global perspectives."

UBC Okanagan's environmental sciences programs increases B.C. graduate students' access to education alternatives. The program directly addresses the growing global need for environmental scientists and professionals and ensures graduates have a core competency in environmental science with the flexibility to specialize.

-30-

Media contact: Corinna Filion
Communications Manager
250 952-6400
250 812-7977 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.